

## Medical School, PA Program at JWU Seek to Collaborate

PROVIDENCE – Brown University and Johnson & Wales University (JWU) have signed a memorandum of understanding to explore collaborations between the Alpert Medical School and the new physician assistant program at JWU.

The agreement, signed in March, outlines several areas for potential cooperation including sharing training facilities, jointly arranging lectures, pursuing educational grants, and engaging in cost-sharing.

“The collaborative training of physicians, physician assistants, and other members of the interprofessional health care team is an evolving national educational initiative,” said Dr. George Bottomley, director of JWU’s Center for Physician Assistant Studies.

“The new model of health care is patient-focused, IT-driven, and team-based,” said Dr. Edward Wing, dean of medicine and biological science at Brown. “Alpert Medical School is fortunate to partner with JWU to explore interdisciplinary training opportunities with its physician assistant program.

This new collaboration makes good sense as we work toward expanding the entire health care workforce in Rhode Island and beyond.”

The debut of the JWU PA program, the first in Rhode Island, comes amid greater recognition across the state that interprofessional education will better prepare health care workers for the future of care delivery.

Alpert Medical School, for example, holds interprofessional workshops twice a year that team its medical students with students from the University of Rhode Island’s nursing and pharmacy colleges, and Rhode Island College’s nursing and social work schools. Acting as a cohesive care team, the Brown, URI and RIC students diagnose and develop treatment plans for actors playing the role of patients in Alpert Medical School’s simulated doctors’ offices or

“clinical skills suites.”

Recognizing the increasing patient care responsibilities being placed on physician assistants, Johnson & Wales has developed a curriculum that emphasizes academic and clinical excellence.

JWU is renovating an 18,000-square-foot building at 157 Clifford St. that it bought last year for the new PA program, a mere 1,000 feet from the medical school. ❖



Johnson & Wales’ new physician assistant program will be housed in this building on Clifford Street in downtown Providence, in close proximity to the Alpert Medical School.

## Rhode Island Hospital opens COBRE Center for Stem Cell Biology

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital is expanding its research space in the city’s bio-med-focused Knowledge District with the opening of a new hematology-oncology laboratory, the COBRE Center for Stem Cell Biology in Life-span’s Coro building.

The new 11,000-square-foot hematology-oncology research lab was made possible by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH conferred more than \$300,000 to Peter Quesenberry, MD, director of hematology oncology at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals, specifically for the construction of the new lab.

“This new lab space will help us to further study the use of stem cells for the treatment of many illnesses – various forms of cancer, tissue and organ damage and much more,” Dr. Quesenberry said. “By working closely with the physicians, we are developing new studies that stem from the patient – essentially, creating research in reverse, from the bedside to the bench, in an effort to develop new treatments for all-too-common and debilitating illnesses.”

The cancer studies being conducted are directed toward revising drug resistance in prostate cancer, chronic myelocytic leukemia and breast cancer.

Additionally, cutting-edge studies to develop better treatments for prostate and breast cancer are being conducted, as are studies of mesenchymal stem cells for their ability to reverse pulmonary hypertension. The laboratory also will support research in novel anti-cancer treatments for pediatric and adult malignancies, and will continue to examine therapeutic mechanisms underlying refractory leukemia and lymphoma. The new lab space can accommodate 14 laboratory benches, and can accommodate 10 funded investigators, as well as their technicians and students. ❖

## Jay Publishes Research on New OA Prevention Treatment



PROVIDENCE – Researchers have found that adding lubricin, a protein that our bodies naturally produce, to the fluid in our joints may reduce the risk of or even prevent osteoarthritis (OA). The findings, in a paper by Gregory D. Jay, MD, PhD, of the department of emergency medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, is published online in advance of print in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The discoveries were made in part by studying the knees of mice, which genetically lack lubricin, causing an aggressive arthritis in spite of high levels of hyaluronic acid in the synovial fluid. A lack of lubricin, resulting in higher friction, leads to cartilage cell death - even in the presence of high

levels of hyaluronic acid, a viscous fluid that cushions the joints. This discovery appears to challenge the practice of injecting hyaluronic acid alone into a patient's joints.

"The lubricin is a protein, not hyaluronic acid, and currently, there are no disease-modifying treatments for osteoarthritis," Dr. Jay said. "Patients suffering from this degenerative joint disease either go through a total joint replacement, or are forced to live with pain every day. This discovery, however, supports that adding a lubricin replacement to the fluid in joints may in fact prevent osteoarthritis in those who have a genetic predisposition to the illness, or who have suffered significant trauma to the joints."

He added, "We are working to create a replacement for natural lubricin that we hope will significantly improve the treatment options, and ultimately prevention measures, for those with early osteoarthritis, or those with joint injuries."

The study was funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Other researchers involved in the study are Kimberly A. Waller of Brown University; Ling X. Zhang of Rhode Island Hospital; Khaled A. Elsaid of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Braden C. Fleming of Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University; and Matthew L. Warman of Boston Children's Hospital ❖



PHOTOS: RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

## Brown, Whiteley Receive \$1.5M Grant

*Researchers will study mobile app to engage young adults with HIV*

EAST PROVIDENCE – Larry Brown, MD, and Laura Whiteley, MD, adolescent behavioral researchers from the Bradley Hasbro Children’s Research Center, have been awarded a \$1.5 million grant to improve antiretroviral treatment (ART) adherence in HIV infected youth and young adults.

The study, funded by The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), will explore the use of a mobile phone app/game to better inform youth about their health needs and improve their adherence to treatment.

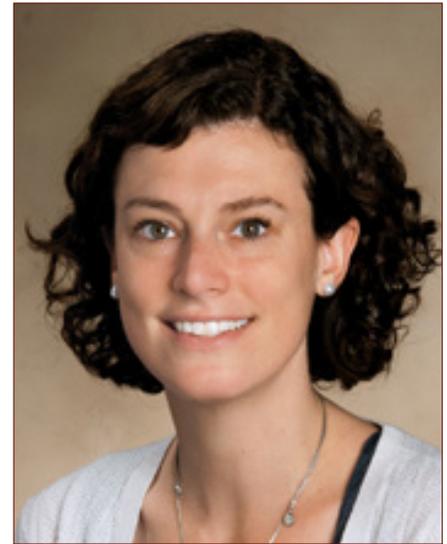
“Optimal outcomes in the treatment of people living with HIV require consistent attendance to medical appointments and high compliance to antiretroviral

**In the study, young adults between the ages of 14 to 24 who are HIV positive will have access to an action-adventure smartphone based app/game called “Battle Viro.”**

treatment,” said Dr. Whiteley. “Treatment adherence is associated with enhanced CD4+ cell count, reductions in HIV viral load, decreased transmission and an overall decrease in risk of death. Teaching young adults with HIV how to better manage their health is crucial to their long-term wellbeing.”



Larry Brown, MD



Laura Whiteley, MD

PHOTOS: BRADLEY HASBRO CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTER

In the study, young adults between the ages of 14 to 24 who are HIV positive will have access to an action-adventure smartphone based app/game called “Battle Viro.” Tasks within the game are related to common HIV treatment protocols, such as players collecting pills to keep immune level scores high.

While gaming, participants will experience action-oriented adventures with a goal of increasing knowledge about their health (treatment, transmission, adherence), improving players’ motivation to manage their personal health, and building skills, such as interacting with physicians.

“Despite the necessity of treatment adherence for optimal health outcomes, youth living with HIV often do not stay

in care and do not consistently take their HIV medications,” said Dr. Brown. “There is a great need to find effective interventions to improve treatment adherence for adolescents and young adults infected with HIV. Without adherence to medical care, we are not likely to halt the progression to AIDS.”

Pill bottle opening data from each participant’s medication bottle cap will be captured using a tracking technology, to measure whether participants are taking their medication regularly. The research team hopes to find more consistent medication adherence among the group that plays the smartphone game. ❖

## Bradley Researchers Find Age-Related Changes in How Autism Affects the Brain

### Findings come from a first-ever large-scale study of brain activity in children versus adults with autism that could lead to more targeted treatments for autism spectrum disorders

EAST PROVIDENCE – Newly released findings from Bradley Hospital published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* have



HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Daniel Dickstein, MD, FAAP

found that autism spectrum disorders (ASD) affect the brain activity of children and adults differently.

In the study, titled "Developmental Meta-Analysis of the Functional Neural Correlates of Autism Spectrum Disorders," Daniel Dickstein, MD, FAAP, director of the Pediatric Mood, Imaging and Neurodevelopment Program at Bradley Hospital, found that autism-

related changes in brain activity continue into adulthood.

"Our study was innovative because we used a new technique to directly compare the brain activity in children with autism versus adults with autism," said Dr. Dickstein. "We found that brain activity changes associated with autism do not just happen in childhood, and then stop. Instead, our study suggests that they continue to develop, as we found brain activity differences in children with autism compared to adults with autism. This is the first study to show that."

This new technique, a meta-analysis, which is a study that compiles pre-existing studies, provided researchers with a powerful way to look at potential differences between children and adults with autism.

Dr. Dickstein conducted the research through Bradley Hospital's PediMIND Program. Started in 2007, this program seeks to identify biological and behavioral markers – scans and tests – that will ultimately improve how children and adolescents are diagnosed and treated for psychiatric conditions. Using special computer games and brain scans, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), Dr. Dickstein hopes to one day make the diagnosis and treatment of autism and other disorders more specific and more effective.

Among autism's most disabling symptoms is a disruption in social skills, so it is noteworthy that this study found significantly less brain activity in autistic



HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Rowland Barrett, PhD

children than autistic adults during social tasks, such as looking at faces. This was true in brain regions including the right hippocampus and superior temporal gyrus, two brain regions associated with memory and other functions.

Dr. Dickstein noted, "Brain changes in the hippocampus in children with autism have been found in studies using other types of brain scan, suggesting that this might be an important target for brain-based treatments, including both therapy and medication that might improve how this brain area works."

Rowland Barrett, PhD, chief psychologist at Bradley Hospital and chief-of-service for The Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities was also part of the team leading the study. ❖

## HIV Therapy for Treatment-Experienced Patients

*Multi-site study, led by Miriam's Tahsima could change treatment strategy*

PROVIDENCE – A new multi-site study reveals patients with drug-resistant HIV can safely achieve viral suppression – the primary goal of HIV therapy – without incorporating the traditional class of HIV medications into their treatment regimen. Karen Tashima, MD, director of the HIV Clinical Trials Program at The Miriam Hospital, served as study chair.

The AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network's OPTIONS Trial proves, for the first time, that treatment-experienced patients can leave out this class of medication, known as nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTI), as part of the regimen. These results could change treatment guidelines, lessen side effects and increase adherence rates, the researchers say.

Dr. Tashima and colleagues presented the results from the 48-week study at the annual Conference for Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Atlanta on March 6.

"We are so comfortable clinically with the NRTI class that we think we must always use at least one drug from this class in treatment. However, some patients have developed within-class resistance, making the NRTIs less

effective overall. Therefore, drugs from this class may not be needed if the new treatment plan contains more effective medications," said Dr. Tashima, who also leads ACTG's clinical research site at The Miriam Hospital.

"There were a few new drugs coming out at the same time and we decided to turn the question around. Instead of having patients take their current medications from the NRTI class as well as these new drugs from different classes, we asked half of the study participants to add NRTIs and half of them to leave out NRTIs from their new treatment plan. We were able to take the usual study paradigm and turn it around," she added.

The OPTIONS Trial, also called A5241, included ACTG sites from around the country as well as sites from the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials group and the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network. Study volunteers needed to be at least 16 years old and show treatment experience or resistance to their current HIV medications.

Most of the A5241 participants had been on ART for 10 years or more. Traditional antiretroviral therapy consists



of medications from the nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor class, including tenofovir, azidothymidine and lamivudine. The new medications studied included darunavir and tipranavir from the protease inhibitor class of HIV medications, maraviroc from the CCR5 antagonist class, raltegravir from the integrase inhibitor class, etravirine from the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors class and enfuvirtide an injectable drug from the fusion inhibitor class.

Patients will continue on the study for a total of 96 weeks to ensure virologic suppression is maintained.

"There is no question that the results show what we had set out to prove – a treatment-experienced patient will not lose virologic suppression by omitting NRTIs," said Dr. Tashima. ❖

## Women & Infants Launches ‘Safe to Sleep’ Campaign Saving infants from accidental crib deaths

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital is kicking off a “Safe to Sleep” model of care and educational campaign. Recognizing that one of the biggest dangers for newborns is loose blankets in the crib that can cover the baby’s face and interfere with breathing, all babies born at Women & Infants Hospital are now being placed in a HALO SleepSack. This wearable blanket, also being used at Care New England’s Kent Hospital, replaces the need for any blankets that a baby may be able to kick off,



HALO INNOVATIONS INC.

Baby Henry in sleep sack developed by a Bill Schmid, a father who lost his infant daughter to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). An engineer, he devoted himself to finding new and creative ways to address these risks in an infant’s sleeping environment, which are primarily centered around loose bedding in the crib.



WOMEN & INFANTS HOSPITAL

Marcia VanVleet, MD

helping to ensure that baby sleeps safely and comfortably throughout the night.

“We want to be sure that all of our new families are getting off to the healthiest start, right from the very beginning,”

said Marcia VanVleet, MD, medical director of the newborn service team at Women & Infants Hospital. “In addition to modeling a safe sleep environment in the hospital, Women & Infants will now giving all of our new parents a Summer Infant swaddle to take home with them – a safe alternative to blankets that keeps baby warm and comfortable.”

“Safe to Sleep” is an expansion of the original “Back to Sleep” campaign, which was named for its recommendation to place healthy babies on their

backs to sleep, the most effective action that parents and caregivers can take to reduce the risk of SIDS. According to the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development, since that campaign started the percentage of infants placed on their backs to sleep has increased dramatically, and the overall SIDS rates have declined by more than 50 percent.

SIDS, the leading cause of death in babies one month to one year of age, is the sudden, unexplained death of a

baby younger than one year of age that does not have a known cause even after a complete investigation. Sleep-related causes of death, which are not SIDS, may be linked to how or where a baby sleeps or has slept. They may be due to accidental causes, such as suffocation, entrapment (when a baby gets trapped between two objects, such as a mattress and a wall, and cannot breathe), or strangulation (when something presses on or wraps around baby’s neck, blocking baby’s airway). ❖



HALO INNOVATIONS INC.

All babies born at Women & Infants Hospital are now being placed in a HALO SleepSack.

## Kent Recognized for ‘Keeping it Green’

*Miriam receives honorable mention*

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island honored environmental sustainability practices in healthcare through the first Rhode Island Environmental Sustainability (RIES) Awards from Hospitals for a Healthy Environment in Rhode Island, in partnership with Brown University, the City of Providence, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Health Care Without Harm.

The awards were offered to healthcare individuals, institutions and agencies that have demonstrated leadership in sustainability initiatives and serve as models for their peers.

The awards were presented at the Blue Wrap Blue Jean Ball, a networking

and fundraising event, held on March 21 at the Roger Williams Park Casino.

### Kent’s ‘Keeping it Green’ team

Kent Hospital’s “Keeping it Green” (KIG) team received the RIES Award for environmental sustainability. The awards committee recognized Kent for its recycling

and waste reduction program, green clean program, environmental landscaping program with little to no fertilizer, irrigation, and pesticide use, staff garden, and weekly farmers market in the summer.

“On behalf of Kent Hospital, we are extremely pleased to be recognized with this award for our green efforts,” said Joseph Dipietro, Esq., senior vice president & chief administrative officer and legal counsel, who oversees Kent’s Keeping It Green team.

“This honor reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment this team and the entire hospital places on the importance of recycling, sustainability and overall corporate social responsibility.”

### Miriam’s ‘Greenways Team’

The Miriam Hospital’s “Greenways Team” received an honorable mention for their sustainability initiatives in paper and waste reduction, blue wrap

recycling, pharmaceutical waste collection program, and good community relations.

Miriam hired a sustainability coordinator, Monica Anderson, last year, and since then the green team has grown to a 61-member multidisciplinary team that meets monthly. Greenways, following an environmental audit, has kickstarted many recycling projects, and doubled the recycling rate in a year.

### Environmental champion

The Environmental Champion Award was given to Sylvia Weber, a nurse, who was honored for her dedication and commitment to environmental health. She formed the RI State Nurses Associations Environmental Affairs Committee and is a strong advocate for environmental legislation. She has testified both at the state and at the national level on countless environmental issues. ❖



PHOTOS: KENT



PROVIDENCE VAMC

Veterans of the 126th Aviation Regiment were given post-deployment health screenings at the Providence VA Medical Center recently.

### Providence VA screens returning soldiers

PROVIDENCE – The Providence VA Medical Center recently hosted a Post-Deployment Health Readiness Assessment (PDHRA) for members of the 126th Aviation Regiment, which served a 9-month deployment in Kuwait, where they performed aviation support missions with Blackhawk helicopters in Southwest Asia.

The event was the fifth PDHRA conducted with the Rhode Island National Guard since 2012. It was the first time the new women’s health clinic was used for a comprehensive health screening, which examined for physical and behavioral health concerns associated with deployment. The soldiers underwent a primary care screen as well as mental health and traumatic brain injury screens. ❖

### Care New England and The Providence Center Announce Affiliation

PROVIDENCE – Care New England (CNE) and The Providence Center (TPC) entered into an affiliation agreement on March 18.

The strategic affiliation followed a Request for Proposal (RFP) process CNE initiated to identify and engage an innovative, high quality community provider of mental health and addiction services which would enhance and expand the mental health and addiction services currently provided throughout CNE.

One way in which the affiliation is leveraging its combined expertise is the creation of a Short-Term Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. To be located on the Butler Hospital campus, the program will be managed by The Providence Center and supported by Butler physicians who are experts in addictions. Another way in which expertise will be shared is in the area of emergency services. CNE and TPC are exploring opportunities for TPC’s behavioral health care practitioners to provide psychiatric and substance abuse assessment, counseling and follow-up services to patients that present in the emergency departments of CNE affiliate hospitals. ❖



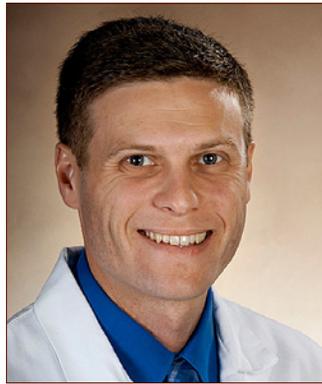
Care New England and The Providence Center announced a partnership on March 18 to strengthen behavioral health services. Signing the agreement between the two organizations were (seated) Dennis Keefe, president and CEO, Care New England; Dale K. Klatzker, president/CEO, The Providence Center; (back row, from left) Walter Dias, COO, Butler Hospital; Patricia Recupero, JD, MD, president and CEO Butler Hospital; and Owen Heleen, chief strategy officer, The Providence Center.

## Doctors speak at Humanitarian Assistance Symposium

PROVIDENCE – Adam C. Levine, MD; Selim Suner, MD, and Susan Cu-Uvin, MD, recently spoke at an inaugural symposium at Brown University titled: “Humanitarian Assistance at the Crossroads: Brown University’s Role in Improving Humanitarian Effectiveness.”

The March 2 event brought together state and national academic, medical and humanitarian leaders to emphasize the need for training dedicated professionals in humanitarian aid.

“We know that more and more physicians and nurses are responding to disasters and humanitarian emergencies, and it’s vital that we start working to train and prepare them for the often difficult task of working in austere and sometimes dangerous environments. Having better prepared responders will help protect both them and the people they are going to serve,” said Dr. Levine,



Adam C. Levine, MD



Selim Suner, MD



Susan Cu-Uvin, MD

an emergency physician at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, and co-director of the Global Emergency Medicine Fellowship at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

In summer 2012, Dr. Levine worked to set up a medical clinic in a refugee camp in South Sudan, while engineers organized a water sanitation system,

social workers protected orphans, and business people managed volunteers.

Dr. Suner is director, Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), and a professor of emergency medicine at Brown.

Dr. Susan Cu-Uvin, director of Brown’s Global Health Initiative, moderated the event. ❖

### Classified Advertising

#### Office space for sale or lease

Medical office space for lease or sale in Providence, in an established building in a prime location across from Women & Infants Hospital. 1600 sf, first floor, ample parking. Lab and x-ray on premises. \$25/sf. Hines Dermatology Associates, Inc. Please call Cheryl at 508-222-9966, Monday–Friday, 7am–3pm.

#### Searching for a physician assistant to join your practice?



The Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants can help you find a qualified PA. Visit the RIAPA Career Center to advertise

and view the CVs of the best and brightest PAs. Go to [www.RhodeIslandPA.org](http://www.RhodeIslandPA.org) and click on Career Center to start your search. RIMS members are eligible for a 15% discount on ads. For questions and details of how to obtain the discount contact: Megan Turcotte, [mturcotte@rimed.org](mailto:mturcotte@rimed.org), 401-331-3207.

## W&I team travel to Rwanda on medical mission

PROVIDENCE – In February, B. Star Hampton, MD, of the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Women & Infants Hospital, traveled to Rwanda with the International Organization for Women and Development (IOWD), as part of a fistula repair team.

The team included senior fellow, Nicole Korbly, MD; Jessica Salak, MD, an obstetrician/gynecologist with the Center for OB/GYN, and Edie McConaughey, a certified nurse midwife.

They worked in Kigali for two weeks at Kibagabaga Hospital with a team of American surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses, and collaborated with and trained Rwandan physicians, medical students, and nursing staff.

During this trip, Dr. Hampton’s team evaluated more than 200 women with fistula and was able to successfully operate on nearly 50 of these women. “Our team was able to provide basic and advanced care to the women in Africa. We worked hard to tackle difficult surgical cases and to create meaningful results,” said Dr. Hampton. ❖



B. Star Hampton, MD

## Bradley Hospital and Gateway Healthcare Launch Kids'Link RI

*24-hour hotline geared for children in emotional crisis*

EAST PROVIDENCE – Bradley Hospital, the nation's first psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents, has collaborated with Gateway Healthcare, Rhode Island's largest community behavioral health care provider, to offer a 24-hour hotline for children in need of mental health care.

Kids'Link RI is a hotline that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children in emotional crisis and who are suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness.

"As many parents know all too well, a child can have a crisis or an emergency any time of the day or night. We want to make sure families have access to the care they need," said Henry Sachs, MD, chief medical officer of Bradley Hospital. "With the Kids'Link hotline, we are providing a safety net, so that no matter where or when a child needs help, he or she can receive it."

The hotline – 1-855-KIDLINK – connects parents and caregivers to children's mental health services in Rhode Island, and helps families determine the best place to go for treatment. With this confidential hotline, parents and caregivers can dial a toll-free number, and be connected with emergency service clinicians or receive direction about the appropriate "next step" for managing their crisis.

"We are so pleased to partner with Bradley Hospital to make the Kids' Link hotline available," said Gateway President and CEO Richard Leclerc. "There is nothing more heartbreaking than a child suffering with behavioral health issues, and we want to ensure that access to services is swift and seamless. The Kids' Link hotline will prove to be an important community resource going forward."



Parents and caregivers are encouraged to call the hotline on behalf of any child who is:

- Feeling excessive anger or sadness
- Hurting himself/herself or others
- Lashing out at siblings, friends and adults
- Having behavior problems at school
- Having severe worries

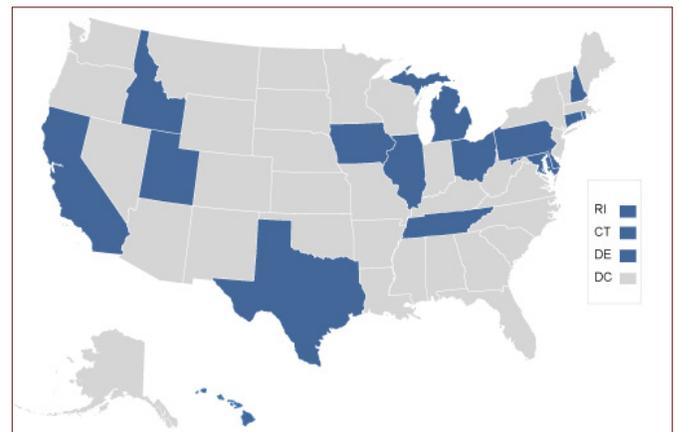
When necessary, evaluations for children are offered at Bradley Hospital and Gateway Healthcare locations. For more information about Kids'Link RI, visit <http://www.bradleyhospital.org/KidsLinkRI>. ❖

## RI Receives \$1.6M Healthcare Innovation Award

BALTIMORE – Rhode Island is one of 16 states to receive a model design testing award from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation program it was announced in late February. Over the next six months, the state will receive up to \$1.63 million to develop its State Health Care Innovation Plan.

According to CMS, Rhode Island intends to develop a model that builds upon the patient-centered medical home initiative and focuses on a community-centered delivery system. The model will leverage the opportunities provided by the state's Health Benefits Exchange and Medicaid initiatives.

Planning activities will facilitate a multi-stakeholder process to review current state payment and delivery system reform initiatives; identify data sources and baseline data for outcomes measures and financial analysis; and identify policy



CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID

lever changes available and needed to effectuate the plan. The resulting plan will define strategy and mechanisms for moving Rhode Island's health care delivery system to a value-driven, community-based, and patient centered system. ❖

## Lifespan picks Epic Systems technology platform for electronic medical records

*Project expected to cost \$90M*

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan has partnered with Epic Systems Corporation, a worldwide leader in health information technology, to transform the way Lifespan hospitals deliver care by emphasizing a patient-centric model.

This model will provide patients with electronic access to their health information 24/7, enable patient communication with caregivers, eliminate duplicative and unnecessary tests, streamline the scheduling process and provide a system that will pull patient information from different caregivers into a single electronic medical record.

“Our decision to partner with Epic is so much more than an IT decision; we are undertaking a fundamental redesign of the way we deliver care throughout the Lifespan system,” said Timothy J. Babineau, MD, Lifespan’s president and chief executive officer. “Once fully deployed, the new Epic system will make it possible to exchange information at the point of care. Patients will be empowered with easy access to their health information, and providers will have exactly what they need to make decisions in real time.”

Lifespan expects to begin implementation this spring with the project being completed in 2015. The project is expected to cost \$90 million.

### Benefits

Lifespan expects the new system to provide many other benefits, such as:

- A single patient medical record that will be accessible throughout the entire Lifespan system. For consenting patients who travel, their record will be accessible across the country with the patients’ other caregivers who use Epic.
- A portal that will allow patients access to their health information, as well as the ability to schedule appointments electronically and communicate with their caregivers.
- Enhanced chronic disease management under an accountable care delivery model.
- Elimination of duplicate and unnecessary testing.
- Increased ability to perform clinical research and generate research funding.
- Improved patient care through enhanced and standardized processes.

Lifespan will also be making the Epic electronic medical record available to its affiliated community physician practices. ❖

## Brown, Hospitals Strike IP Agreements

*Services to be provided for discoveries made by hospital-based scientists*

PROVIDENCE – Under a recent agreement announced with Lifespan, Brown University’s Technology Ventures Office (TVO) will provide selected IP management and commercialization services to the health care system.

Brown also recently expanded its relationship with Care New England, bringing together in one place much of the licensable life science intellectual property developed by scientists across each institution, University and hospital officials said. The two health care systems and Brown’s Division of Biology and Medicine conducted \$200.3 million worth of biomedical research in fiscal year 2012.

The new agreement with Lifespan calls for Brown to provide the health care system with IP identification, reporting, protection, marketing, licensing, and business development services for selected new discoveries made by hospital-based scientists.

Late last year, Brown expanded a similar arrangement it had with Care New England’s Women & Infants Hospital to cover the other Care New England hospitals – Butler Hospital and Kent Hospital.

“Providence’s collectively growing biomedical enterprise has a lot to offer the world, and Brown has the expert staff and relationships to help connect our state’s scientists with the opportunities their ingenuity creates,” said Brown Provost Dr. Mark Schlissel. “We are pleased to work with Lifespan and Care New England to bring new discoveries to the marketplace where they can help patients in need.” ❖



BROWN

### Padbury study featured on cover of *Genomics*

PROVIDENCE – The cover of the March issue of the journal *Genomics* features a study by Brown and Women & Infants researcher and Professor of Pediatrics Dr. James Padbury and co-authors who looked at the genes associated with pre-term birth.

In the United States one in eight women give birth pre-term, and researchers aren't sure why. Informed by a systematic search of the scientific literature, the team then combed through genomic data from nearly 2,000 pre-term and regular term mothers. They identified 19 genetic pathways and networks of interest, encompassing 53 different genes. Their next step is doing deep sequencing of the significantly associated genomic regions in the Brown Genomics Core. ❖

### CharterCARE signs intent agreement with national company

PROVIDENCE – CharterCARE Health Partners (CCHP), the corporate parent of Roger Williams Medical Center and St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island/Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, announced in March that it has executed a Letter-of-Intent (LOI) with Prospect Medical Holdings, Inc. (PMH), a national healthcare services company.

Under the proposed transaction, CCHP and PMH will create a new and innovative joint venture that will maintain local governance and input.

PMH will make a significant capital contribution into a new company, which will be jointly owned by PMH and CCHP. Fifty percent of the Board of Directors of the new company will be appointed by CCHP, thereby maintaining a strong, local governance presence.

Edwin Santos, chairman of the CCHP Board, stated, "We look forward to completing this transaction, which will provide significant capital for our hospitals to sustain and develop clinical programs, acquire new technology, attract physicians and maintain a skilled workforce."

CCHP and PMH will work toward the development of a definitive agreement, at which time an application for approval under the Rhode Island Hospital Conversion Act will be made to the Rhode Island Attorney General and the Rhode Island Department of Health. ❖

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Reduced radiation dose in CT colonography

A new study by a Rhode Island Hospital researcher has found it's possible to maintain high-quality CT colonography diagnostic images while reducing the radiation dose. This is important as the use of CT colonography, or virtual colonoscopy, becomes more widely used for colorectal cancer screenings.

Through his research, Kevin J. Chang, MD, of the department of diagnostic imaging, found that decreasing the tube voltage would not negatively impact the integrity of the CT colonography. His research is published in the current issue of the journal *Radiology*.

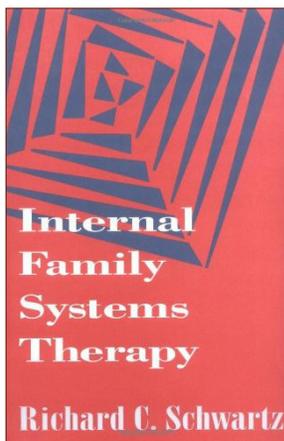
#### Alpert Medical School reaccredited

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has voted to continue accreditation of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Dean Edward Wing announced March 7. After an intensive visit in October 2012, LCME officials found the school to be compliant with all of its more than 120 accreditation standards, noting strengths in areas such as student participation in scholarly programs, financial aid counseling, limiting student indebtedness, and the new medical education building.

## Butler to host creator of Internal Family Systems (IFS) at annual lecture

PROVIDENCE – On Monday, April 8, from noon to 3:30 p.m., Butler Hospital will host Richard C. Schwartz, PhD, who will lecture on: “The Treatment of Trauma and the Internal Family Systems Model (IFS),” at the 18th annual Irving M. Rosen, MD, lecture on spirituality and health.

A featured speaker for national professional organizations, Schwartz has published five books and over 50 articles about IFS. Grounded in systems thinking, he developed the IFS model in response to clients’ descriptions of various parts within themselves.



In 2000, he founded the Center for Self Leadership, which offers trainings and workshops in IFS for professionals and the general public, both in this country and abroad.

The lecture will be held at the Ray Conference Center, 345 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. The cost is \$45. It carries three continuing medical and educational credits for physicians, psychologists,

nurses, social workers, teachers and school psychologists, and mental health counselors.

To register, call 401-455-6265.

## HEALTH grand rounds: Immunization update with Dennehy

**Thursday, April 4**

8:30–9:30 am

Public health grand rounds presentation, “2013 immunization update” by Penelope Dennehy, MD. Watch at the Public Health Auditorium, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence or by live webcast. [amms.oshean.org/content/DOH/PHGR-4-4-2013](http://amms.oshean.org/content/DOH/PHGR-4-4-2013)

Pre-register online at:

[https://apps.biomed.brown.edu/cme\\_registration/](https://apps.biomed.brown.edu/cme_registration/)

## Bradley Hospital launches conference series for professional training, education

PROVIDENCE – The clinical staff from Bradley Hospital will lead an ongoing series of conference sessions to provide training and continuing education for psychologists, social workers, physicians, nurses, certified counselors, speech/language and occupational therapists, teachers, milieu therapists, and other professionals. Topics cover different behavioral health populations and treatment modalities and are intended to provide practical, state-of-the-art information.

The following are planned for April and May:

**Thursday, April 4**

**“Using Motivational Interviewing with Adolescents”**

**Speaker: Nadine R. Mastroleo, PhD**

This session introduces the use of Motivational Interviewing (MI) by mental health clinicians working with

a wide range of client concerns, with special attention on the use of MI with adolescents who use alcohol or other drugs. Nadine R. Mastroleo, PhD, is a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) and assistant professor (research) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, who will lead the conference.

**Thursday, May 2**

**“Advanced Tools for Treating Children in a Family Context”**

**Speakers: Michelle Rickerby, MD, and Thomas Roesler, MD**

This presentation focuses on understanding symptoms in a family context and learning how to interview children and their families to further that understanding and intervene systemically. The conference will be led by Michelle Rickerby, MD, from the Department of Psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital and clinical associate professor at The

Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; and Thomas Roesler, MD, from the Department of Psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital and associate professor at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

**Where:** Squantum Club

947 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
Riverside RI

**Other:** The cost of each program is \$99. Registration deadlines are April 1 and April 29, respectively. Beverages and light snacks are provided at both conferences, and continuing education credits are available. For more information or to register, call the Lifespan Health Connection at 401-444-4800 or 1-800-927-1230, or visit <http://www.bradleyhospital.org/oth/Page.asp?PageID=OTH133142>.